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Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Foreign Agricultural Service
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FRANCE AS A MARKET FOR CITRUS FRUIT

General situation: France has steadily increased her imports of citrus fruit in the last five years. This trend has also been true of other fruits such as apples and pears. The increase in fruit is partly explained by the relatively higher purchasing power of France as compared with that of other important fruit markets such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries, as well as by the stability of the franc. The fact that import regulations have not been as drastic as those promulgated by Germany, Poland, Holland, and Denmark has also helped to increase imports.

French imports of citrus increased from around 7,000,000 boxes a year in 1929-30 to 10,600,000 boxes in 1933-34. In the last year 78 percent of citrus imports consisted of oranges, 14 percent of mandarins and 8 percent of lemons. Grapefruit are classed with oranges and therefore not recorded separately. Imports of citrus from the United States are reported under the orange classification. In 1933-34 about 75,000 boxes were so recorded. This figure includes a considerable quantity of grapefruit. Imports from the United States are increasing and are heaviest from June to October. Spain is the principal source of oranges, Spain and Algeria of mandarins, and Italy and Spain are the chief sources of lemons.

The tariff schedules on citrus were changed and most classifications sharply increased during April 1935. A two-column tariff is in effect, the United States taking the minimum rate. In terms of dollars, oranges from the United States are dutiable at around $0.88 a box, grapefruit at $2.41 a box and lemons at $0.54 a box, plus an import tax of 2 percent of the duty-paid value in each case. Oranges and tangerines have been subject to quota restrictions since the increase in the duty. No specific quota has been allotted the United States due to her small share in the orange trade and consequently, any orange imports from the United States will have to enter under the small quota allotted to unspecified countries.

Although the United States share of the orange trade is small the United States is probably the chief supplier of grapefruit, at least during the summer season, May to October.

France has a small production of oranges and lemons, amounting to less than 50,000 boxes a year. Orange production averages around 30,000 boxes and lemons 7,000 boxes a year. Crops probably would be somewhat larger were it not for the practice of removing blossoms for use in the perfume industry.

Imports: About four-fifths of the citrus imports into France are oranges. Average importations in the 5-year period 1929-30 to 1933-34 (November to October) amounted to 6,600,000 boxes. Imports increased during the period from 5,100,000 boxes in 1929-30 to 8,300,000 boxes in 1933-34. Spain supplies the lion's share of the imports with small quantities coming from other producing countries such as Algeria, Italy and the United States.

Oranges land in France every month of the year but the principal season is from December to June. From July through November only around 6 percent of the season's supply arrives. The flow of new-crop oranges begins in November, when a little over 2 percent of the annual imports are made, increases rapidly in December to 9 percent, continues to mount steadily and reaches its peak in May with 19 percent of the total seasonal movement, declines abruptly in June and July and drops to insignificant proportions in August, September and October. See tables pages 5 and 6.

Mandarins imported by France are not as important as oranges. Yet the amount of the imports is considerable. The average annual import of mandarins, during the period 1929-30 to 1933-34, amounted to about 1,400,000 boxes. Practically all of the supply was received from Spain and Algeria with the former country furnishing somewhat more than half. Arrivals from Spain have shown an increase in the last five years but the total mandarin imports have remained practically stationary. This was due to the fact that the decline in imports from Algeria was about equal to the increase in arrivals from Spain. The mandarin season is rather short extending from November to April. The bulk of France's imports are made from December to February. See tables pages 5 and 7.

Lemon imports, although small as compared with oranges, have shown an increase during the 5-year period 1929-30 to 1933-34. The average annual number of boxes imported by France during this period was around 735,000, of which Italy supplied about two-thirds and Spain one-third. Small amounts are also received from Algeria and other countries.

The amount of lemons shipped into France is about the same throughout the year. The peak months are June and July. About 15 percent of the season's shipments arrive in June, the heaviest month, and 5 percent in September, the lightest month of importation. See tables pages 5 and 8.

Import requirements: Import duties on grapefruit and mandarins were revised sharply upward effective April 12, 1935. In addition, the maximum rates on oranges were increased. Import quota restrictions were adopted for oranges on April 28, 1935. Before entry of oranges can be made under the quota, licenses must be secured. The increase in the duty on grapefruit probably will affect adversely imports of this fruit from the United States but raising the mandarin duty is of little significance since the United States does not export any to France.

France has minimum and maximum duties. Fruit from the United States takes the lower rate. Maximum rates are four times the minimum rates with the exception of lemons, in which case the maximum is twice as large as minimum rate. The rates charged for fruit from the United States are: Oranges, fr. 36.40; grapefruit, fr. 100.00; and lemons, fr. 20.80, all per 100 kilos. In terms of dollars these rates work out at around $0.88 per box for oranges, $2.41 per box for grapefruit, $1.81 per box for tangerines and $0.54 per box for lemons. To the duty there must be added an import tax amounting to 2 percent of the duty-paid value, or, on a standard citrus-box basis, a charge of roughly 5¢ to 10¢, depending on the value.

The duties on oranges and lemons can be said to be fairly moderate, especially on the latter, but the new duty on grapefruit is extremely high and that on mandarins high enough to discourage imports somewhat; Citrus from Algeria enters France free of duty. No doubt the recent increases in the duties were designed, in part at least, as an aid to Algeria. See table page 9.

France as a market for American citrus: In the last few years there has been an increase in the imports of American citrus fruit into France. The kinds of citrus are not shown separately but included with the orange imports. Judging by the exports of citrus from the United States to other countries, the trade must consist almost entirely of oranges and grapefruit. In addition to direct imports from the United States some shipments of American fruit are received indirectly from other countries such as the United Kingdom.

Direct imports of citrus fruit from the United States were not reported until the 1931-32 season when the total reached 29,500 boxes, climbed to 60,800 boxes in the 1932-33 season and reached 75,000 boxes in the 1933-34 season. During these same years imports from the United Kingdom declined, which would indicate that some of that fruit at least was of United States origin.

The new import regulations may affect the United States trade in oranges and grapefruit considerably. The increase in the minimum duty on grapefruit from about $0.87 to $2.41 a box is so great that it can hardly fail to check the increase in consumption and possibly retard it. Putting a quota on oranges results in a limitation of imports. The United States was not given a separate-quota allotment such as Spain received, since the United States supplies only a small proportion of the total imports. Any imports from the United States must come out of the small quota allotted to "other countries" not specifically provided for in the order. Details of the quotas are not yet available, but it is assumed that orange imports from the United States will not be seriously restricted since such shipments have generally arrived from June to November, at which period the French markets are sparsely supplied with oranges.

It is reported that Spanish oranges automatically took the maximum rate on July 8, at which time the commercial agreement between the two countries expired. New treaty negotiations have so far been unsuccessful. Should the maximum rate be applied to Spanish oranges they would be dutiable at the high figure of $3.51 per standard box instead of $0.88. The general feeling is that a new agreement will be signed before the start of the next orange season in November. If the maximum rate were to apply to Spanish oranges, naturally the United States would have a tremendous competitive advantage over Spain in the French market providing American oranges are allowed to enter in larger quantities than those permitted at the present time.

FRANCE: Imports of citrus fruits by months and seasons

Month	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	Average 1929-30 to 1933-34	
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	Per-cent
Oranges							
Nov. ..	123	102	158	276	176	152	2.3
Dec. ..	418	521	667	562	734	580	8.8
Jan. ..	510	781	833	907	677	742	11.2
Feb. ..	78	892	1,094	990	1,059	964	14.6
Mar. ..	817	1,006	1,056	1,822	1,161	1,072	16.2
Apr. ..	1,203	964	1,249	727	1,529	1,134	17.2
May ...	790	571	988	2,360	1,679	1,258	19.1
June ..	384	202	267	858	756	453	6.9
July ..	44	18	27	246	302	128	1.9
Aug. ..	6	13	19	85	127	50	.8
Sept. ..	10	13	33	40	33	26	.4
Oct. ..	19	32	41	34	72	40	.6
Total ..	5,110	5,115	6,429	8,087	8,305	6,599	100.0
Mandarins							
Nov. ..	63	50	149	65	118	89	6.5
Dec. ..	384	363	478	464	826	437	31.9
Jan. ..	410	393	447	499	392	428	31.2
Feb. ..	381	255	190	326	281	263	19.2
Mar. ..	165	89	66	219	100	128	9.3
Apr. ..	55	8	2	46	5	23	1.7
May ...	2	1/	1	1/	1	1	.1
June ..	1/	1	1/	1/	1	1/	1/
July ..	1	1/	1/	2	1	1	.1
Aug. ..	1/	1/	1/	1	1/	1/	1/
Sept...	1/	0	0	1/	0	1/	1/
Oct. ..	1/	1	0	1/	0	1/	1/
Total ..	1,381	1,140	1,333	1,622	1,428	1,370	100.0
Lemons							
Nov. ..	50	59	53	71	84	63	8.6
Dec. ..	56	49	57	69	81	62	8.4
Jan. ..	39	52	58	52	47	50	6.8
Feb. ..	30	59	50	66	58	54	7.4
Mar. ..	46	43	53	61	66	54	7.4
Apr. ..	51	64	60	53	66	59	8.0
May ...	51	44	55	75	85	62	8.4
June ..	78	123	100	128	124	111	15.1
July ..	84	68	54	102	114	84	11.5
Aug. ..	23	26	41	91	88	54	7.4
Sept...	47	31	52	45	10	37	5.0
Oct. ..	32	47	51	35	55	44	6.0
Total ..	593	665	684	848	878	734	100.0

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from Statistique Mensuelle du Commerce Extérieur de la France. Converted to boxes of 70 lbs.

1/ Less than 500 boxes.

FRANCE: Imports of oranges by seasons and principal countries[1/]

Season and month	Spain	Algeria	Italy	United States	United Kingdom	Other	Total
	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes
1929-30	4,837,897	165,838	28,341	2/	42,004	36,562	5,110,642
1930-31	4,763,764	165,627	29,705	2/	69,290	86,126	5,114,512
1931-32	6,134,675	96,145	12,607	29,516	43,276	112,846	6,429,065
1932-33	7,420,015	210,931	131,264	60,793	19,794	194,711	8,037,508
1933-34	7,780,482	139,008	135,824	75,079	268	174,099	8,304,760
Average	6,187,367	155,510	67,548	33,078	34,926	120,868	6,599,297
1934-35							
1935-36							
1932-33							
Nov.	102,567	14,821	3	5,127	19,463	63,713	205,694
Dec.	519,827	36,300	869	784	16	4,362	562,158
Jan.	861,304	24,909	2,038	510	57	18,650	907,468
Feb.	938,710	28,102	12,525	1,436	25	8,851	989,649
Mar.	1,247,525	44,000	23,444	951	54	6,015	1,321,989
Apr.	638,906	41,314	39,282	1,106	50	6,526	727,184
May	2,192,600	21,362	43,437	929	60	2,084	2,260,472
June	640,440	95	9,266	4,894	0	3,432	658,127
July	226,225	3	397	12,264	0	7,085	245,974
Aug.	51,644	0	0	15,728	0	17,832	85,204
Sept.	217	0	0	12,179	3	27,072	39,471
Oct.	50	25	3	4,885	66	29,089	34,118
Tot. 1932-33	7,420,015	210,931	131,264	60,793	19,794	194,711	8,037,508
1933-34							
Nov.	133,906	12,062	57	11,234	268	18,798	176,325
Dec.	700,115	25,457	1,011	1,641	0	6,125	734,349
Jan.	633,102	24,663	12,185	1,187	0	5,751	676,888
Feb.	1,000,864	26,675	25,217	983	0	5,653	1,059,392
Mar.	1,074,698	32,285	32,256	1,509	0	19,661	1,160,409
Apr.	1,443,801	16,835	38,095	1,805	0	28,568	1,529,134
May	1,651,385	929	18,478	828	0	6,878	1,678,498
June	741,023	50	8,506	3,858	0	2,442	755,878
July	292,145	0	16	9,095	0	1,137	302,393
Aug.	104,528	0	0	21,441	0	753	126,722
Sept.	3,121	0	3	9,196	0	20,724	33,044
Oct.	1,795	22	0	12,302	0	57,609	71,728
Total 1933-34	7,780,482	139,008	135,824	75,079	268	174,099	8,304,760

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from "Commerce Extérieur de la France".

Converted to boxes of 70 lbs. from quintals of 220.46 lbs.

1/ Includes small amount other citrus such as grapefruit.

2/ Not separately reported; probably quite small.

FRANCE: Imports of mandarins by seasons and principal countries

Season and month	Spain	Algeria	Others	Total
	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes
1929-30	669,411	654,628	6,620	1,330,659
1930-31	606,861	521,537	12,053	1,140,451
1931-32	877,728	416,618	38,974	1,333,320
1932-33	912,359	687,892	21,441	1,621,692
1933-34	1,008,680	396,034	18,223	1,422,937
Average	815,008	535,342	19,462	1,369,812
1934-35				
1935-36				
1932-33				
Nov.	40,331	24,471	16	64,818
Dec.	314,452	146,838	2,765	464,055
Jan.	310,062	181,859	6,613	498,534
Feb.	156,040	164,301	5,168	325,509
Mar.	83,979	133,368	1,911	219,258
Apr.	7,401	35,456	3,115	45,972
May	0	75	32	107
June	91	0	129	220
July	0	1,518	677	2,195
Aug.	3	0	743	746
Sept.	0	0	265	265
Oct.	0	6	7	13
Total 1932-33	912,359	687,892	21,441	1,621,692
1933-34				
Nov.	100,195	17,971	0	1/ 118,166
Dec.	432,230	87,342	6,564	526,136
Jan.	258,852	127,872	5,584	392,308
Feb.	180,454	99,367	1,405	281,226
Mar.	36,247	61,114	2,277	99,638
Apr.	702	2,362	170	3,234
May	0	0	485	485
June	0	6	526	532
July	0	0	1,061	1,061
Aug.	0	0	151	151
Sept.	0	0	0	0
Oct.	0	0	0	0
Total 1933-34	1,008,680	396,034	18,223	1/ 1,422,937

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from the Commerce Exterieur de la France.

Converted to boxes of 70 lbs. Adjusted to allow for an error in the original figures.

FRANCE: Imports of lemons by seasons and principal countries

Season and month	Italy	Spain	Algeria	Others	Total
	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes
1929-30	328,806	246,756	11,516	5,610	592,688
1930-31	475,189	172,368	6,553	11,151	665,261
1931-32	478,200	192,227	4,830	8,925	684,182
1932-33	463,029	370,452	11,525	2,763	847,769
1933-34	494,058	377,293	4,653	2,393	878,397
Average	447,856	271,819	7,815	6,169	733,659
1934-35					
1935-36					
1932-33					
Nov.	43,985	24,091	2,326	891	71,293
Dec.	49,209	16,407	3,542	258	69,416
Jan.	34,844	15,093	1,929	58	51,924
Feb.	49,766	15,119	1,047	3	65,935
Mar.	45,250	14,191	1,201	5	60,647
Apr.	32,982	19,328	424	3	52,737
May	39,233	35,178	496	337	75,244
June	57,735	69,721	127	0	127,583
July	41,287	60,673	142	267	102,369
Aug.	34,694	55,750	102	37	90,583
Sept.	15,418	29,037	-	905	45,360
Oct.	18,626	15,864	188	0	1/ 34,678
Total 1932-33 ..	463,029	370,452	11,524	2,764	1/847,769
1933-34					
Nov.	52,003	30,969	281	1,201	84,454
Dec.	52,850	26,629	531	467	80,477
Jan.	34,435	12,372	406	29	47,242
Feb.	39,503	17,770	528	6	57,807
Mar.	49,754	15,540	418	6	65,718
Apr.	44,127	22,090	116	23	66,356
May	49,566	35,506	87	8	85,167
June	57,561	66,774	11	3	124,349
July	51,962	61,587	6	14	113,569
Aug.	29,315	58,657	61	108	88,141
Sept.	5,042	5,044	180	6	10,272
Oct.	27,940	24,355	2,028	522	54,845
Total 1933-34..	494,058	377,293	4,653	2,393	878,397

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from Commerce Extérieur de la France.
Converted to boxes of 76 lbs. from quintals of 220.46 lbs.

1/ Adjusted to allow for an error in original figures.

FRANCE: Import duties and restrictions on citrus fruit

Kind of citrus	Duty prior April 12, 1935		Duty since April 12, 1935		Other import regulations
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	
	Per 100 k. 1/	Per 100 k. 1/	Per 100 k. 1/	Per 100 k. 1/	
Oranges, sweet and bitter..	F. 36.40	F.72.80	F.36.40	F.145.60	1. Quota & import licenses. 2. Sanitary inspection
Grapefruit, pomelos, clementines, cedrats (limes) & other citrus except oranges, lemons & mandarines.	F.36.40	F.72.80	F.100.00	F.400.00	1. Sanitary inspection.
Tangerines, mandarines & satsumas ...	F.52.00	F.104.00	F. 75.00	F.300.00	1. Sanitary inspection
Lemons.....	F.20.80	F.41.60	F.20.80	F. 41.60	"
	Per box 1/	Per box 1/	Per box 1/	Per box 1/	
Oranges 2/...	F.13.21($0.87)	F.26.42($1.74)	F.13.21($0.88)	F.52.84($3.51)	See above.
Grapefruit 2/	F.13.21($0.87)	F.26.42($1.74)	F.36.29($2.41)	F.145.15($9.63)	" "
Tangerines 2/	F.18.87($1.25)	F.37.74($2.49)	F.27.22($1.81)	F.108.86($7.22)	" "
Lemons ... 3/	F.8.11($0.54)	F.16.23($1.07)	F.8.11 ($0.54)	F.16.23($1.08)	" "

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from information supplied by the Division of Foreign Tariffs and from other official sources.

1/ Plus a small import tax amounting to 2 percent of duty-paid value.
2/ Boxes of 80 lbs. gross, the box is assumed to weigh 10 lbs.
3/ Boxes of 86 lbs. gross, " " " " " " " "

Note: Importation of oranges into France has been placed under import quota restriction by a decree published in the French Journal Officiel for April 28, 1935. Import licenses must be secured before importation is allowed. The franc was worth 6.6035¢ April 12 and 6.6340¢ June 25, 1935, which rates were used in the conversions.